

4    **ABSTRACT**

5           A floating drilling rig configured for performing drilling operations while  
6 floating on a body of water is modified to become a converted vessel  
7 configured for performing drilling operations while resting on bottom by  
8 attaching a support barge component adapted to add rest-on-bottom  
9 functionality. The support barge component has a ballast system that alone  
10 or by supplementing the ballast system of the floating drilling vessel enables  
11 the floating drilling vessel to be ballasted to rest on bottom. The ballast  
12 system of the support barge component is adapted to be opened to the water  
13 to fill and drain as the water level raises and lowers, and thereby maintain a  
14 constant soil pressure. The support barge component may also have a  
15 suction breaker system to break suction formed between the support barge  
16 and bottom. If the floating drilling rig component was previously classified for  
17 service in a defined body of water, the support barge may enable  
18 reclassification of the converted vessel for service outside the defined body of  
19 water.